

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 11, 18, 20, 28, 31, and 34; and

Please ADD claims 37-38, as shown below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

receiving a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a gateway element of a network;

determining whether binding information is required;

determining whether the binding information was supplied with the connection context request; and

when the binding information is required and was not supplied, responding to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.
2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection context request comprises a request for a first resource level, and wherein the responding comprises supplying a second, different resource level.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

activating the connection context; and

informing the mobile station that charging will differ from that associated with a resource level requested in the connection context request.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the connection context request comprises a request for a resource level and wherein the resource level comprises a quality of service parameter.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising downgrading the quality of service.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising informing the mobile station of the change in quality of service.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising reducing a resource level comprising rejecting the connection context request.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network gateway element comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, comprising, prior to the receiving of the connection context request, receiving access to a list of access point names that are internet protocol multimedia subsystem related, and wherein the determining whether the binding information was supplied with the connection context request comprises further determining whether the connection context request refers to one of the access point names on the list.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a network gateway element in the network gateway element, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;

sending an ~~authorization~~ authorization request from the network gateway element to a network policy control element;

receiving a packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the ~~authorization~~ authorization request, the packet classifier being configured for use by the gateway element;

determining in the network gateway whether a conflict exists between attribute values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier; and

when there is a conflict, informing the mobile station.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising:

when there is a conflict, rejecting the connection context request.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising determining suitable traffic flow parameter values and informing the mobile station of those values, when the conflict exists.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising, when the conflict exists:

determining revised traffic flow parameter values to overcome the conflict;

accepting the connection context request; and

informing the mobile station of the revised traffic flow parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the mobile station is informed via a protocol configuration option message.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the network gateway element comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, ~~comprising: a configured to~~
a receiver configured to receive a connection context request from a mobile station; and
a processor configured to determine whether binding information is required; to determine whether binding information was supplied with the connection context request, ~~[[;]]~~ and when the binding information is required and was not supplied, to respond~~responding~~ to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, further configured to supply a different resource level from that requested in the connection context request when the binding information is required and was not supplied.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 18, further configured to:

activate the connection context; and

inform the mobile station that charging will differ from that associated with a resource level requested.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the connection context request comprises a resource level request, and wherein the resource level comprises a quality of service parameter.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, further configured to downgrade the quality of service.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 21, further configured to inform the mobile station of the change in quality of service.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein reducing the resource level comprises rejecting the connection context request.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the apparatus comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, configured to have access to a list of access point names that are internet protocol multimedia subsystem related, and the apparatus is configured to determine when the connection context request refers to one of the access point name on the list.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, ~~comprising: configured to~~
a receiver configured to receive a connection context request from a mobile
station, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow
parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;
a transmitter configured to send an authorization request from the
apparatus to a network policy control element, ~~[[;]]~~ wherein the receiver is configured to
receive a packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the
authorization request, the packet classifier being intended for use by the
apparatus gateway element; and
a processor configured to determine whether a conflict exists between attribute
values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier, ~~[[;]]~~ and
when there is a conflict, to inform the mobile station.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to reject the connection context.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to determine suitable traffic flow parameter values and informing the mobile station of those values.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 28, configured, when there is a conflict, to:

determine revised traffic flow parameter values to overcome the conflict;
accept the connection context; and
inform the mobile station of the revised traffic flow parameters.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 29, configured to inform the mobile station via a protocol configuration option message.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the context request is a packet data protocol context request.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus~~A method~~ according to claim 28, wherein the apparatus comprises a serving general packet radio service support node or a gateway general packet radio service support node.

35. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

receiving a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a gateway element of a network;

determining whether binding information is required;

determining whether the binding information was supplied with the connection context request; and

when the binding information is required and was not supplied, responding to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.

36. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium configured to control a processor to perform:

receiving a connection context request to establish a connection between a mobile station and a network gateway element, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;

sending an authorization request to a network policy control element;

receiving a packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the authorization request, the packet classifier being configured for use by the processor;

determining in the processor whether a conflict exists between attribute values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier; and

when there is a conflict, informing the mobile station.

37. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a connection context request from a mobile station;

determining means for determining whether binding information is required and for determining whether binding information was supplied with the connection context request; and

responding means for, when the binding information is required and was not supplied, responding to the request on the basis of a policy determined by the operator of the network.

38. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a connection context request from a mobile station, the connection context request comprising binding information and traffic flow parameters, the traffic flow parameters being indicative of intended packet filtering;

sending means for sending an authorization request from the apparatus to a network policy control element, wherein the receiving means is configured to receive a

packet classifier from the policy control element in response to the authorization request, the packet classifier being intended for use by the apparatus;

determining means for determining whether a conflict exists between attribute values of the traffic flow parameters and attribute values of the packet classifier; and

informing means for, when there is a conflict, informing the mobile station.